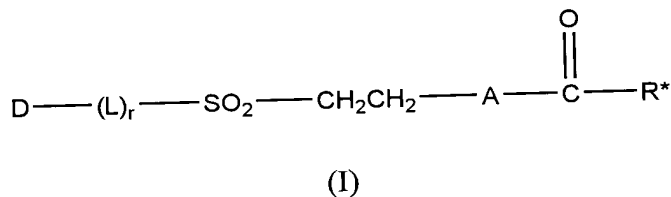


(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>, peptides and polypeptides; wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is independently selected from C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl, wherein n is an integer in the range of 1 to 4 wherein within the same molecule n is not necessarily the same integer and wherein R# corresponds to an amino acid sidechain.

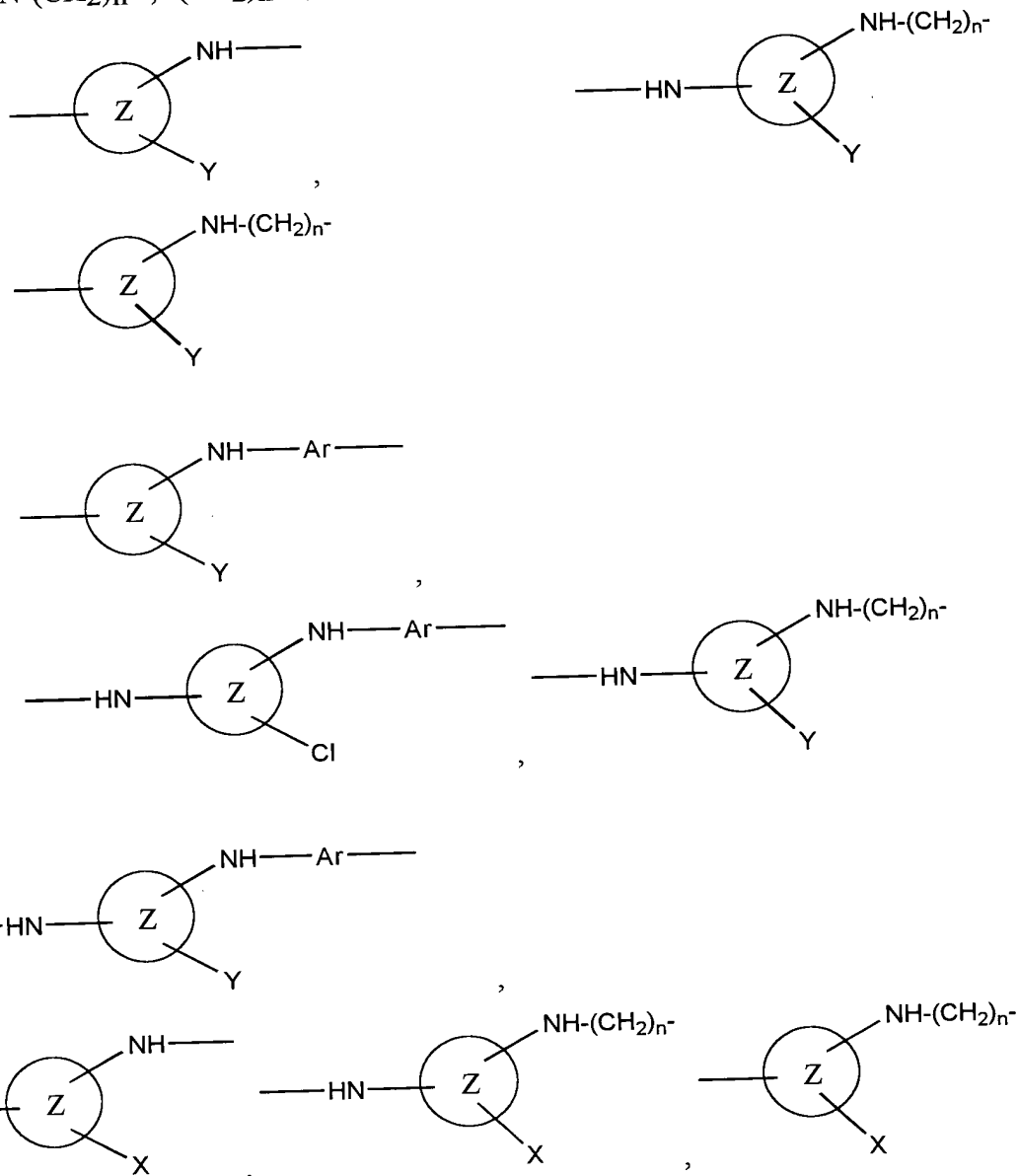
3. A reactive dye according to claim 2 wherein R\* is selected from the group consisting of (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>SH, (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>N, CH(R#)NH<sub>2</sub>, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)OH, CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)O(CO)CH(CH<sub>3</sub>)OH, C(OH)(CH<sub>2</sub>COOH)<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>C(OH)(COOH)CH<sub>2</sub>COOH, C(H)(CH<sub>3</sub>)OH, C(H)(OH)CH<sub>2</sub>COOH, CH<sub>2</sub>C(H)(OH)COOH, C(H)(OH)C(H)(OH)COOH, C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>OH and C<sub>6</sub>H<sub>4</sub>NH<sub>2</sub>.
4. A reactive dye compound according to claim 3 wherein R\* is C(OH)(CH<sub>2</sub>COOH)<sub>2</sub> or CH<sub>2</sub>C(OH)(COOH)CH<sub>2</sub>COOH.
5. A reactive dye compound according to claim 1 wherein A is O.
6. A reactive dye compound having the formula (I):

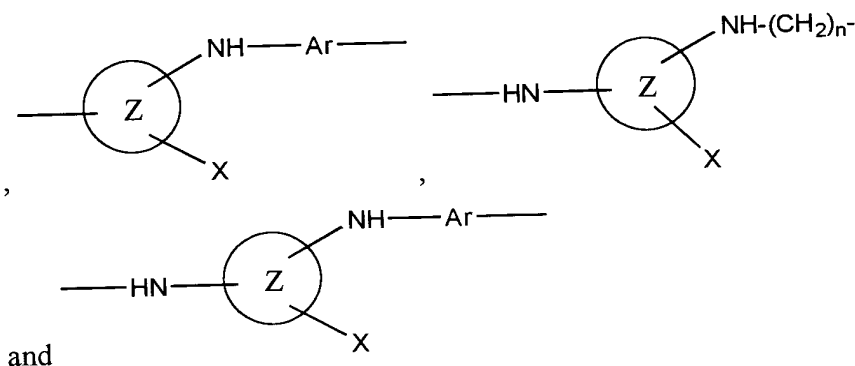


wherein: D is a chromophore group;

r is 0 or 1;

L is a linking group selected from the group consisting of NH,  $(CH_2)_n$ ,  
 $N-(CH_2)_nN$ ,  $-(CH_2)_n-N$ , NR (R is C1-C4 alkyl),





wherein Ar is an aryl group, Y is halogen or  $O(C=O)R^*$ , n is an integer of from 1 to 4, Z is a nitrogen-containing heterocycle, X is selected from the group consisting of thio-derivatives, halogens, amines, alkoxy groups, carboxylic acid groups, CN,  $N_3$ , and quaternized nitrogen derivatives ( $Q^+$ );

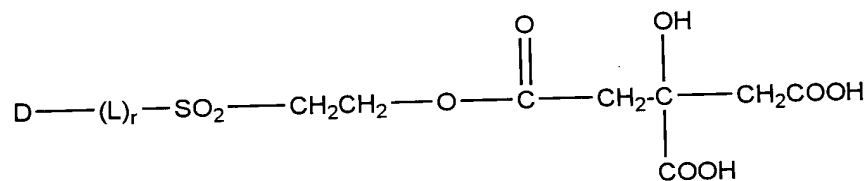
A is O or S,

$R^*$  is selected from the group consisting of  $(CH_2)_nSH$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNH_2$ ,  $CH(CH_3)OH$ ,  $CH(CH_3)O(CO)CH(CH_3)OH$ , derivatives of a polyester of citric acid,  $CH(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$ ,  $CH_2(OH)(CO_2H)CH_2COOH$ ,  $C(OH)(H)CH_2COOH$ ,  $CH_2C(H)(OH)COOH$ ,  $C(OH)(H)C(OH)(H)COOH$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNHR^1$ ,  $CH_2NR^1R^2$ ,  $CH_2NHNH_2$ ,  $CH_2NHOH$ ,  $CH_2SMe$ ,  $CHNH_2(CH_2)_n(COOH)$ ,  $CHNH_2CH_2SMe$ ,  $CHNH_2CH_2SSCH_2CHNH_2COOH$ ,  $CHNH_2CH_2SO_3H$ ,  $C_6H_4OH$ ,  $C_6H_4COOH$ ,  $C_6H_4NH_2$ ,  $C_6H_4N$ ,  $(CH_2)_nC_6H_4N$ ,  $CH(R\#)NH_2$ ,  $(CH_2)_nSSO_3^-$ ,  $(CH_2)_nS-S-(CH_2)_n$ , peptide and polypeptide derivatives linked to the vinylsulphone group via their terminal carboxylic acid group; wherein  $R_1$  and  $R_2$  is independently selected from  $C_1$ - $C_4$  alkyl, wherein n is an integer in the range of 1 to 4 wherein within the same molecule n is not necessarily the same integer and wherein  $R\#$  corresponds to an amino acid sidechain;

and salts thereof.

7. A reactive dye according to Claim 6 wherein  $R^*$  is selected from the group consisting of  $(CH_2)_nSH$ ,  $(CH_2)_nNH_2$ ,  $C_6H_4N$ ,  $CH(R\#)NH_2$ ,  $CH(CH_3)OH$ ,  $CH(CH_3)O(CO)CH(CH_3)OH$ ,  $C(OH)(CH_2COOH)_2$ ,  $CH_2C(OH)(COOH)CH_2COOH$ ,  $C(H)(CH_3)OH$ ,  $C(H)(OH)CH_2COOH$ ,  $CH_2C(H)(OH)COOH$ ,  $C(H)(OH)C(H)(OH)COOH$ ,  $C_6H_4OH$  and  $C_6H_4NH_2$ .

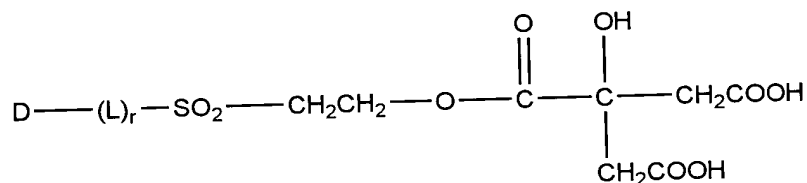
8. A reactive dye according to claim 6 wherein R\* is selected from the group consisting of C(OH)(CH<sub>2</sub>COOH)<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>2</sub>C(OH)(COOH)CH<sub>2</sub>COOH and derivatives of a citric acid polymer.
9. A reactive dye compound according to claim 6 wherein A is O.
10. A reactive dye compound having the structure:



(Ia)

wherein D, L, r are as defined above.

11. A reactive dye compound having the structure:



(Ib)

wherein D, L and r are as defined above.

12. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing cellulosic substrates.
13. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing wool.
14. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing polyamide substrates.
15. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing silk.
16. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing keratin.
17. Method of using a compound according to claim 1 for dyeing leather.

18. Process for the preparation of a compound according to claim 1 comprising the steps of reacting a first starting material with a second starting material, the first starting material comprising at least one chromophore, at least one SO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> which is attached to the chromophore group either directly via the sulphur atom of the SO<sub>2</sub>C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>4</sub> group or via a linking group L, the second starting material comprising an oxy- or thio-carbonyl group.
19. Process according to Claim 18 wherein the process is carried out at a pH of from about 2 to about 8
20. Process according to Claim 18 or 19 wherein the second starting material is added to the first starting material slowly.
21. Product obtainable by a process according to claim 18.
22. A dye composition comprising the compound of claim 1.
23. A dye composition according to Claim 22 wherein the composition is in the form of a solid mixture and further comprises an acid buffer.
24. A dye composition according to Claim 22 wherein the composition is in the form of a liquid and further comprises water and an acid buffer.
25. A dye composition according to Claim 22 wherein the composition is in the form of a paste and further comprises water, thickening agent and an acid buffer.
26. A dye composition according to claim 22 wherein the pH is from about 2 to about 3.

Basis lies, at least, in the claims as originally filed. These amendments are being entered to bring the claims into conformance with, *inter alia*, 37 CFR §1.75; no new matter is added.

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Respectfully submitted,

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